

204, or sell button 206, the mouse pointer may then be maintained in its position above the just-pushed button in case the trader wants to repeat entry of the same trade command shortly thereafter.

5           As indicated above, a trader may never need to type a full price in field 102. Instead, a trader may configure the dialog window to automatically post in price entry field 224 either the current bid or offer price or a pre-programmed-increment-better bid or  
10 offer price of a bid or offer that the trader clicks on. Alternatively, a trader may point to each individual number or quantity (i.e., 0-9, 10, 25, 50, or 100) in keypad 202 and, in effect, input the desired price (or size) using a mouse.

15           In order to enter a size for a bid, offer, buy, or sell command, a trader may either choose to use a pre-programmed default size or adjust the size of a trade in size entry field 230. When the trader is either bidding or offering, size entry field 230  
20 preferably will initially always show a pre-set size amount as configured by the trader. To increase or decrease the size, the trader may either push the size up or size down buttons 232, or delete the size and enter a new size using the keypad 202.

25           Preferably, by default, size entry field 230 is filled with a selected bid or offer size and highlighted when dialog window 200 is opened in response to a trader clicking on the selected bid or offer size. By highlighting the size entry field 230,  
30 a trader may change the size by simply pushing any of the buttons on keypad 202 without first highlighting and/or deleting numbers in that field. Once a desired size is entered, a trader may then push sell button 206

or buy button 204 and submit an order to sell or buy the size appearing in size entry field 230.

Another way for a trader to bid is to choose an item and a size and then press bid button 212

5 without designating a price. By entering a bid in this manner, the trader simply joins the best bid that appears on the trader's screen for that item. Although this approach to entering a bid is extremely easy and fast, a trader is risking that in the moment just prior  
10 to pressing bid button 212, the bid price appearing on the screen may change and thus force a trader to use the new price. Should this occur, a trader may press the cancel bids button 216 and re-enter a desired bid using the method described above.

15 As mentioned above, an entry verification feature of the present invention may be used substantially simultaneously with a command-line interface or a click on bid or offer interface to cause a graphical interface to be presented after a trader  
20 submits a command-line trade command or clicks on a component of a bid or offer. For example, if using a command-line interface, a trader submits a command to bid at a certain price for a certain size, a dialog window 200 may automatically appear (if not already  
25 shown), price and size fields 224 and 230 may be populated with the certain price and the certain size, and the pointer may be warped to just above bid button 212. The trader can then press bid button 212 to confirm the command or alter the price and/or size as  
30 described above.

Although the illustrations above are discussed in connection with bidding for and buying of an item, it should be obvious to those of ordinary

skill in the art that the same features of the present invention are available in the offering for and selling of an item. Offer and sell buttons may be used instead of bid and buy buttons to offer and sell, respectively,  
5 an item.

FIG. 3 illustrates another embodiment of a graphical interface for submitting trading commands. As shown, the graphical interface comprises many of the same features as illustrated in FIG. 2. FIG. 3, as  
10 opposed to FIG. 2 however, may be used for two-sided market trading, and the additional features in FIG. 3 are added to facilitate two-sided market trading. As shown, the graphical interface comprises a dialog window 300 with various buttons and entry fields 302-  
15 344. Using these buttons and entry fields, a trader may simultaneously initiate a bid command and an offer command for an item corresponding to a market cell 100. Preferably, each traded item uses a unique dialog window 300. Dialog window 300 may be opened  
20 automatically and/or manually before, during, and/or after a trade, and may allow a trader to submit a trade command at any time. The dialog window may be repositioned on a trader's display and/or fixed in place. The trader, preferably, will keep the window  
25 associated with a particular item below the market cell 100 for the same tradable item. The number of dialog windows 300 that can be kept open at any one time is preferably unlimited.

As shown in FIG. 3, dialog window 300 may  
30 comprise a variety of on-screen buttons and entry fields. Generally, a button, as displayed in box 300, may be "pushed" by placing a pointing device's pointer over the button and pressing a switch on the pointing